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ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

5765

INFO: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

6367

RIO DE JANEIRO

4740

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN RESEARCHERS

REF: RIO'S 4132

FOR ARA/BR, DEAN

1. ON JUNE 26, STANLEY NICHOLSON, ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF FORD FOUNDATION - BRAZIL, RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ANTONIO FAUSTINO DA COSTA, CHIEF DE CABINET OF GUANABARA PUBLIC SECURITY CHIEF, GENERAL FRANÇA DE OLIVEIRA, IN RESPONSE TO NICHOLSON'S LETTER OF JUNE 16 REQUESTING EXPLANATION FOR TEMPORARY DETENTION OF THREE AMERICAN RESEARCHERS JUNE 12 (MEMO RICHARD JOHNSON TO MINISTER BOONSTRA JUNE 17, COPY SENT ARA/BR):

QTE O EXMO. SR. SECRETARIO DE SEGURANÇA TOMOU CONHECIMENTO DOS TERMOS DA CARTA DE V. SA E DOS RELATOS FEITOS PELOS CIDADÃOS NORTE-AMERICANOS WERNER BAER, RIORDAN ROETT E CARLOS MANUEL PELAEZ, PERMENORIZANDO A SUA DETENÇÃO POR ALGUMAS HORAS, NA NOITE DE 12 DE JUNHO.

DRAFTED *RAK*
POL: RAKohn/RHShields: ael

DRAFTING DATE

7/7/70

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Declassified
Authority: 43265 By:
Amanda Weimer Date:
05-12-2015

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4-68



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ACTION:

2 - INCUMBIU-ME O SENHOR SECRETARIO DE TRANSMITIR A V. SA, QUE A AÇÃO DOS ÓRGÃOS DE SEGURANÇA NACIONAL, AMPARADA NO "PODER DE POLICIA", ERA IMPERIOSA. INFORMAÇÕES SECRETAS PROCEDENTES DO PRÓPRIO PAIS DE ORIGEM DOS DETIDOS (ESTADOS UNIDOS DA AMÉRICA DO NORTE), APONTAVAM COMO PROVÀVELMENTE VINCULADO À AÇÃO TERRORISTA DO SEQUESTRO DE S. EX.A, O EMBAIXADOR DA REPÚBLICA FEDERAL DA ALEMÂNHA, OCORRIDO NA VÉSPERA, PELO MENOS UM DAQUELES ALIENIGENAS.

3 - A GRAVIDADE DO ASSUNTO, ESTAVA A EXIGIR MEDIDAS ENÉRGICAS E A CURTO PRAZO, NA EXPLORAÇÃO DE TÔDAS AS INDICAÇÕES FORNECIDAS, ÔBVIAMENTE, INCLUINDO A DILIGÊNCIA DETENTIVA DE WERNER BAER, RIORDAN ROETT E CARLOS MANUEL PELAEZ. ESTES, FORAM MANTIDOS SOB CUSTÓDIA, PELO MINIMO ESPAÇO DE TEMPO NECESSÁRIO ÀS APURAÇÕES, QUE NÃO CONFIRMARAM A SUSPEITA.

4 - VALE LEMBRAR QUE, NA OPORTUNIDADE DO SEQUESTRO DO EXMO. SR. EMBAIXADOR DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, TAMBÉM MUITAS PESSOAS FORAM DETIDAS E, APÓS, RESTITUIDAS À LIBERDADE, DEPOIS DE SUBMETIDAS A INTERROGATÓRIOS.

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5 - A NARRATIVA DE WERNER BAER, RIORDAN ROETT E CARLOS MANUEL PELAEZ, DEIXOU CLARO QUE CONTRA ELES NÃO SE PRATICOU QUALQUER VIOLÊNCIA FÍSICA E, COM REFERÊNCIA AO ALEGADO DESAPARECIMENTO DE DINHEIRO E OBJETOS, FEITO PELO SR. RIORDAN ROETT, FORAM ADOTADAS RIGOROSAS PROVIDÊNCIAS PARA ELUCIDAR A DENÚNCIA, CUJO RESULTADO SERÁ OPORTUNAMENTE COMUNICADO A VOSSA SENHORIA. ATENCIOSAS SAUDAÇÕES. UNQTE

2. ITAMARATY, APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF GUANABARA PUBLIC SECURITY'S LETTER, ON JUNE 30 REPLIED TO EMBASSY'S AIDE-MÉMOIRE ON SUBJECT (BRASILIA'S 209) STATING THAT GOB'S CONCERN OVER INCIDENT WAS "NOT LESS" THAN THAT OF AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THAT IT TAKING NECESSARY STEPS WITH COMPETENT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO CLARIFY MATTER.

3. EMBASSY REGARDS AS VALID THE EXPLANATION OFFERED BY THE GUANABARA PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETARIAT FOR THE DETENTION OF THE THREE PROFESSORS.

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EMBASSY

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SUSPECTS THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS THE SAME AS THAT PROVIDED THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BY A MYSTERIOUS "SAMUEL H. BROWN" (LETTER DEAN TO AMBASSADOR ELBRICK, MARCH 27, 1970).

4. NICHOLSON -- WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT -- WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE TONE OF PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICE'S REPLY, WHICH HE INTERPRETED AS IMPLYING THAT THE TREATMENT RECEIVED BY THE THREE PROFESSORS IS STANDARD PRACTICE UNDER THE PRESENT BRAZILIAN REGIME. HE FOUND ITAMARATY'S INTERIM REPLY ENCOURAGING, HOWEVER, SEEING IN IT SOME PROMISE OF A MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE IN SUBSEQUENT GOB COMMUNICATIONS ON THE MATTER.

5. BECAUSE OF NICHOLSON'S INITIAL BELIEF THAT THE DETENTION OF THE RESEARCHERS WAS COMPLETELY ARBITRARY AND HIS REJECTION OF STATEMENT BY PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETARIAT THAT IT HAD DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING AT LEAST ONE OF THEM, THE EMBASSY ON JULY 6 PASSED ON TO NICHOLSON, ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE "ANONYMOUS" TELEPHONE CALL IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING DR. ROETT. ON THE

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BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION, NICHOLSON APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE POLICE THOUGHT IT HAD EVIDENCE WORTHY OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE TENSE SITUATION AT THE TIME OF THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S ABDUCTION. NICHOLSON PLANS TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ROETT AND TO SUGGEST THAT ROETT MAY WISH TO FOLLOW UP WITH DEAN WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE US IN AUGUST.

6. NICHOLSON SAID DURING JULY 6 MEETING THAT, WHILE THE FORD FOUNDATION IS WILLING TO LET ISSUE DIE QUIETLY, SOME ELEMENTS AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, ALREADY HOSTILE TO BRAZIL, (NICHOLSON SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED DOUGLAS GRAHAM) ARE PLANNING TO PUBLICIZE THE INCIDENT ON CAMPUS AND IN US PRESS IN ORDER FORCE THAT UNIVERSITY OUT OF FORD FOUNDATION PROGRAM IN BRAZIL. NICHOLSON FEARS THAT IF VANDERBILT PULLS OUT OTHER UNIVERSITIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT, THUS MAKING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR FORD TO RECRUIT TOP-NOTCH RESEARCHERS FOR ITS BRAZIL PROGRAM (THE FORD PROGRAM HAS AID SPONSORSHIP).

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